

Program Name: Greek and Roman Mythology:  
Goddesses, Monsters, and Heroes

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Artist: Sharyn Brooks Katzman

## Special Points of Interest:

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The original religion of the early Romans was so modified by the addition of numerous and conflicting beliefs in later times, and by the assimilation of a vast amount of Greek mythology, that it cannot be reconstructed precisely.

Other programs by this artist:

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- [Art and Culture of the Plains and Prairie Indians](#)
- [We Wear our Hearts and Minds on our Sleeves](#)



## Workshop Description

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As students act out ancient myths, they are encouraged to analyze and question today's presentations of heroism and evil. The mythology segment is successfully adapted to language and literature classes, science, civics and art. Students love the dramatic presentations, but end up seeing the connections between classical and modern culture—and why ancient goddesses appear on Nike sneakers!

Sharyn Brooks Katzman presents to students the power that Greek and Roman mythology still holds over Western culture during this interactive workshop. Sharyn demonstrates how mythic characters such as Atlas, Nike, and Narcissus

influence students' everyday life, ideals, and purchasing choices.

Sharyn leads the group in an examination of how entrenched Greek and Roman mythological archetypes are in American culture. Examples used are drawn from recent theatrical releases, television programming, animation, video games, language, advertising, and even footwear.

The workshop concludes with the students having the opportunity to perform classical Greek and Roman myths as Sharyn narrates the stories.

## Educational Objectives & Standards

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Students will:

- Be introduced to the Greek and Roman mythology that is ingrained in modern culture
- Explore the power that mythological characters have to sell everything from consumer goods to ideologies

Behavioral Studies:

- Knows how a culture's art works and artifacts reflects its values and beliefs

Language Arts

- Understands the ways in which language is used in literary texts

## Artist Bio

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A lecture or demonstration with Sharyn Brooks Katzman is dynamic and engaging. Sharyn holds degrees in history and art history, has written art criticism, works for museums and schools, and has a global view from living and working in various European and Asian countries. With experience in curating exhibitions and developing programs, she is attuned to a wide variety of audiences.

Formerly a printmaker, Sharyn

creates jewelry and wearable art and loves to teach at all levels. While grounded in academics and tied to curricula, her experience in local theater infuses her presentations with verve and fun. She is particularly knowledgeable in the fields of women's studies, African and African-American art, and Native American art and culture. Her programs aid critical and creative thinking, build self-esteem, encourage inquiry, and inspire ongoing study on the part of students.

## List of Resources:

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### **Books:**

Bulfinch's Greek and Roman Mythology: The Age of Fable  
by Thomas Bulfinch  
Dover Publications; Dover edition  
(April 1, 2000)  
ISBN: 0486411079

Mythology : Timeless Tales of Gods and Heroes  
by Edith Hamilton  
Warner Books; (August 1, 1999)  
ISBN: 0446607258

Heroes, Gods and Monsters of Greek Myths  
by Bernard Evslin  
Laurel-Leaf Books; Reissue edition (October 1, 1984)  
ISBN: 0553259202

The Odyssey (Dover Thrift Editions)  
by Homer, George Herbert Palmer  
Dover Publications;  
Unabridged edition (May 1, 1999)  
ISBN: 0486406547

Contact KCYA for more information about this and other programs

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## Vocabulary

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**Atlas:** The Titan who was made to hold up the heavens.

**Ceres:** goddess of grain and growing.

**Echo:** a nymph punished by Hera for talking too much. Echo's punishment was that she could speak only the last word someone else spoke.

**The Furies:** formed from Uranus' blood; were spirits of revenge.

**Myth:** A traditional, typically ancient story dealing with supernatural beings, ancestors, or heroes. These beings serve to explain aspects of the natural world or delineate the psychology, customs, or ideals of society.

**Stentor:** A herald of the gods noted for his loud voice.

**Titan:** ruler of the universe.

## Post-Workshop Activities

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1. What activities and events does your family celebrate? Do they reflect your culture and heritage? Are there any tokens or charms (lucky coin, cutting the ends off a roast, etc.) that your family has adopted for good luck?
2. Examine your families beliefs. Can you trace the influence of ancient Greek and Roman mythologies in your ideologies?
3. Look for the impact of Greek and Roman mythological characters in popular culture (songs, television, movies.) Also look for mythological influence on consumer goods. How are "the gods" (Mercury, Mars, Jupiter) used to promote a product and influence consumers?
4. Research a myth to see how it explains a natural or physical phenomenon.